

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/866,800

Examiner

Johannes P Mondt

Applicant(s)

OKAWA ET AL.

Art Unit

2826

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/11/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,5,6,20,21,27 and 28.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 5/11/03 (replacement sheets) and 9/26/01 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Minhloan Tran
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2826

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney J. Spong (Reg. No.: 52,241) on June 28, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

BEGIN EXAMINERS' AMENDMENT

(1) *Claim 1*, line 4: the wording "to pull down a pad to a ground level" has been replaced by "to pull down a pad";

(2) *Claim 1*, line 14: the wording "at a deeper position of" has been replaced by: "at a deeper position than";

(3) *Claim 1*, line 15: the wording "near the second isolation region" has been replaced by: "adjacent to the second isolation region";

(4) *Claim 20*, line 4: the wording to pull down a pad to a ground level" has been replaced by "to pull down a pad";

(5) *Claim 27*, line 4: the wording "to pull down a pad to a ground level" has been replaced by "to pull down a pad".

END OF EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Drawings

2. Replacement Sheets for drawings were received on 05/11/2004. The examiner accepts these drawings.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 20, 21, 27 and 28 are allowed.

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With regard to claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 27 and 28: Neither Natori nor Wolf '3-7 nor Wolf '5-3 teach or suggest a silicide layer connecting a "ground terminal connected to the second N-type diffusion region and a P-type diffusion region" (lines 21-22 of claim 1), while Chen et al (5,166,089) as cited previously (see PTO-892 of first Non-Final Action mailed 3/11/02) do not teach the first P-type diffusion region (on the side of the MOS transistor in relation to the isolation region closest to the latter, as opposed to on the opposite side as shown in Figure 2).

With regard to claims 20 and 21: Neither Natori nor Wolf '3-7 nor Wolf '5-3 teach or suggest a silicide layer connecting a "ground terminal connected to the second N-type diffusion region and a P-type diffusion region" (final two lines of claim 20), while Chen et al (5,166,089) as cited previously (see PTO-892 of first Non-Final Action) do not teach the first P-type diffusion region (on the side of the MOS transistor in relation to the isolation region closest to the latter, as opposed to on the opposite side as shown in Figure 2).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2826

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Johannes P Mondt whose telephone number is 571-272-1919. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 18:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan J Flynn can be reached on 571-272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JPM
June 18, 2004